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THREE DAYS CHAT.

DIALOGUES

BETWEEN

YOUNG LADIES

AND THEIR

GOVERNESS.

GAINSBOROUGH.

Printed at Mozley and Co's Lilliputian Book-Manufactory.

PRICE SIXPENCE.

THREE DAYS CHAT
NAMES OF THE LADIES WHO DROVE THE

DIALOGUES

BETWEEN



GOVERNMENT

GAINSBOROUGH

Printed at the University of Cambridge
by the University Press

NAMES of the LADIES who appear in the
Dialogues of this Boak.

Mrs *Affable*, Governess to Lady *Sensible*.

Lady *Sensible*, twelve

Lady *Witty*, twelve

Lady *Mary*, five

Lady *Charlotte*, seven

Lady *Trifle*, ten

} Years of Age.

Names of the Ladies of the
Diocese of this Diocese
BETWEEN

Mrs. Webb, Governor to Lady Scudmore

Lady Scudmore, twelve

Lady Webb, twelve

Lady Mary, five

Lady Charlotte, seven

Lady Tyle, ten

M

to them the same
you have not done
ever was seen
Lady Scudmore, twelve

DIALOGUES

BETWEEN

YOUNG LADIES OF QUALITY AND THEIR GOVERNESS.

DIALOGUE I.

Lady TRIFLE coming to visit Lady SENSIBLE.

Lady Trifle.

MY dear Lady Sensible, how do you do? You cannot think how delighted I am to spend the afternoon with you. They tell me you have got from Paris, the prettiest doll that ever was seen. Oh how merry we shall be!

Lady Sensible. With all my heart, my dear;

8 DIALOGUES BETWEEN YOUNG LADIES

I am glad I have any thing to entertain you. But somebody knocks.—'Tis Lady Witty ; she sent me word she would come and drink tea.

Lady Witty. Your servant Ladies :—But, bless me ! did not I see Lady Sensible playing with a doll ? (*laughs.*) O fy ! my dear ; I thought you had more sense : twelve years old, and to play still !

Lady Trifle. Pray, Lady Witty, is there any harm in playing at twelve ? Methinks it is not so long since I saw you with several dolls yourself.

Lady Witty. I burnt them all above six months ago ; and have desired papa to lay out the money he used to give me for those trifles, in buying books, and paying all kinds of Masters.

Lady Trifle. I am quite of another taste, I assure you. If I were my own mistress, instead of giving two guineas a month to learn geography, I would have all the pretty things from Paris, and that would be some pleasure : but

my master tires me to death when he comes ; I cannot help yawning every moment : he tells mamma ; she is angry, and that makes me hate both master and geography ten times more.

Lady Witty. Then you don't love to read history ?

Lady Trifle. No indeed, my dear. I must read, because papa will have me : but when I am grown up, and may do as I please, I give you my word I will never look into a book.

Lady Witty. You will be silly then all your life, and will never be agreeable. I must tell you what set me against dolls : While we were in the country last summer, several ladies visited at our house ; among the rest, were two so excessively ugly, that they were frightful : well, papa was delighted every time they came ; he said they were amiable ladies. This astonished me ; for I thought none could be so, unless they were handsome : but I was more surprised soon after. You know Lady Lucy, who is quite a beauty ; papa could not bear her. He said, she

10 DIALOGUES BETWEEN YOUNG LADIES

was a statue, an automaton, and had no soul. I did not know what that meant. But one day being with these two ugly ladies, I asked them, What difference there was between them and Lady Lucy? Indeed, my dear, answered they, it is plain enough to be seen: she is handsome, and we are ordinary. I know that very well, said I; papa repeats it often: but he says too, that you are amiable, and she is not; that she is nothing more than a fine image, a beautiful automaton. I do not know well what an automaton is, but I thought an image was made either of wood or stone; besides, I imagined it was impossible to live without a soul, yet he says Lady Lucy has none. The two ladies smiled, and said, that a woman of understanding was reckoned amiable, but that fools were called statues or automatons; because as an automaton is a machine that can walk, play on the flute, and do several other things, though it be nothing but a statue made of a bit of wood, and has neither soul, thought, or reason, so fools speak, walk,

and do every thing without thinking, just like a piece of clock-work. Ah, ladies, said I, pray tell me how I must learn to think, for I should be very sorry to be an automaton. Where did you get that sense, which, notwithstanding your faces, makes you so agreeable? From books, answered they, and applying to our Lessons when young. From that time, I quitted every thing, and endeavoured to improve my mind. I am a great proficient, every body says so; but I am resolved to go on, and so I read all day long.

Lady Triste. Pray tell me, my dear, what is so much good sense good for?

Lady Witty. Good for! a thousand things. Last year I was quite weary at papa's assembly; I was treated just like a little baby: but now the company talk to me, and I talk, and they tell me that I am as witty as an angel. The other day I was at Lord's C---'s, who has a fine collection of pictures: several ladies were there, who desired to know what they signified. I fell a-laughing; and my Lord, who knew I read

12 DIALOGUES BETWEEN YOUNG LADIES

the *Metamorphoses*, asked me, if I understood the subjects of the paintings? I explained them all, and was vastly admired; and it is a great pleasure to be praised and admired; besides, the blunders of the ignorant divert me much more than a doll.

Lady Trifle. Well, my Lady, I had rather be ignorant than ill-natured: if sense is of no other use than to ridicule others, I do not desire to have any. What do you think, Lady Sensible? I am told you read a great deal; is it to despise those who want wit like me?

Lady Sensible. No, my dear, I read because it both instructs and amuses me; and I hope it will make me good when I grow up.

Lady Witty. If reading amuses you, why do you keep dolls still?

Lady Sensible. To divert my acquaintance; I am always pleased when I can please others.

Lady Trifle. I am greatly obliged to you, my dear; keep your doll for me; and when I am tired of play, I will come and study with you,

that I may learn to be like you, for you are very good.

Lady Sensible. Ladies, if you please, we will step into Mademoiselle Affable my governess's room, she waits for us to drink tea.

DIALOGUE II.

Between Lady WITTY and Lady SENSIBLE.

Lady Witty.

MY dear, I am quite vexed, and I am come to tell you my uneasiness.

Lady Sensible. What is the matter, my dear? your eyes look as red as if you had been crying.

Lady Witty. I have been crying all the morning, and could cry still. I told you lately that I read a great deal to improve my mind, and to be admired. Well, now I am determined to

14 DIALOGUES BETWEEN YOUNG LADIES

read no longer, but to throw all my books and maps into the fire.

Lady Sensible. You had better give them me. But what makes you take such a resolution?

Lady Witty. I will tell you what happened this morning, and then judge if I have not reason to be angry with my sense, and the books that gave it me. My Lord B—— and his brother came to breakfast at our house, and while papa was reading some letters, waited for him in the parlour. The moment I heard my Lord was below, I made all the haste I could down stairs, for I love to be with him dearly. He tells me, I am a fine young lady, have a great deal of sense, and a thousand other pretty things. As I came near the door I heard them speaking of me, and I listened. But the treacherous wretch! O my dear, I can't help crying when I think of it: He said I was an ill-natured, good for-nothing little creature, that would some time or other be the pest of society. To say, I should be a pest, do you know, my dear, it is the most ter-

rible thing in the world ! He said farther, that I was as proud as Lucifer, and ridiculed and jeered every body I knew ; and that it were better for me to be ignorant than to go on learning, for it would only spoil me compleatly by increasing my vanity. Afterwards he mentioned you : She is a charming young lady, said he ; she speaks but little, but it is to the purpose, and I would give any thing to have a child like her. He was going on, but hearing papa coming, said no more ; and for my part, I ran to my room to cry. I was called down to breakfast ; but I sent word I was not very well, that I might not see this nasty man, who says one thing, and thinks another. After dinner, I asked Mamma leave to come and see you, that I might tell you the affair. I would fain know what you do without being called so proud and a pest.

Lady Sensible. Indeed, my dear, I know not what to say. But I think, that if I have any good qualities I owe them to my governess. She tells me, there are two kinds of sense : the one

good for nothing, but to make us hated and despised ; the other softens our tempers, renders us mild, amiable, and virtuous, and makes all our acquaintances speak well of us ; and whenever I have not the right sort, she reproves me.

Lady Witty. Perhaps I have the wrong sort ; what is your opinion ! You will not answer. Do not be afraid to tell me ; indeed I love you too well to be angry.

Lady Sensible. Since you desire me, I will. You have not the right sort, but that is not your fault ; you was never told the difference, or, I am persuaded, you would have strove to have been otherwise.

Lady Witty. You are very kind to excuse me ; indeed you are in the right ; I will endeavour to amend, but I am afraid I shall not succeed. If you would beg your governess to instruct me, I should be greatly indebted to you.

Lady Sensible. I am sure she will do it with pleasure. She is never so happy as when she meets with young ladies who are well inclined,

and desire to be good and to improve. She has already engaged some of my friends to come and spend three afternoons in a week with me, to instruct us by way of amusement; shall I tell her you desire to be of the party?

Lady Witty. With all my heart; only let me know when you intend to begin, and I will be one of the first to come.

DIALOGUE III.

Mrs AFFABLE, Lady SENSIBLE, Lady WITTY, Lady MARY, Lady CHARLOTTE, and Miss MOLLY.

Lady Mary.

M*RS* Affable, your servant. Lady Sensible tells me you know a great many very pretty tales;

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18 DIALOGUES BETWEEN YOUNG LADIES

and as I love tales dearly, I am come to desire you will tell me one.

Mrs Affable. Yes my dear, I know several pretty tales, and fine stories.

Lady Mary. What difference is there between a tale and a story.

Mrs Affable. A story is an account of what is true, and a tale is a narration invented only to amuse young persons.

Lady Mary. But then, they that make these tales are liars, since they say what is not true.

Mrs Affable. No, my dear. To lie is to seek to deceive: now, as they tell you they are but tales beforehand, they do not seek to deceive.

Lady Mary. Be so kind as to tell me both a tale and story, that I may judge which is the prettiest.

Mrs Affable. With pleasure, Lady Mary: I will give you a fine story to read, and you shall learn it by heart; and I will tell you a pretty tale.

Lady Charlotte. And pray will not you give me as well as Lady Mary, something to read?

Mrs Affable. Yes, my dear children, you shall each of you have a story like grown girls; but I must first tell Lady Mary the tale I promised her. Come now, attend.

PRINCE DARLING. A Tale.

THERE was once a king so beloved by his subjects, that they called him *the good king*. One day, as he was hunting, a little white rabbit, being closely pursued by the hounds, ran to him for shelter. The king made much of the little rabbit; and said, Since it has but itself under my protection, I will not have it hurt; so he carried the little white rabbit home to his palace, and gave it a very pretty little house to live in, and nice greens to eat. At night, when he was alone in his chamber, he saw a beautiful lady appear. She was not dressed in gold or silver;

20 DIALOGUES BETWEEN YOUNG LADIES

but her gown as white as snow, and instead of a head-dress she wore a crown of white roses. The good king was very much surprised at seeing



a young lady in his bed-chamber ; for the door was locked, and he could not imagine how she got in. I am, said she, the fairy Candida. I was in the wood while you were hunting, and had a mind to try whether you was as good as is reported. For that purpose, I assumed the shape

of a little rabbit, and ran to you for safety: for I know, that those who are good to beasts, must certainly be much more so to human creatures; and if you had refused me your protection, I should have thought you very cruel. I come now to thank you for your kindness, and assure you that I will on all occasions be your friend. Ask whatever you will, and I promise to grant your request. Madam, said the good king, since you are a fairy, you undoubtedly know all I desire. I have an only son whom I love tenderly, and who, on that account, is called *Prince Darling*; if you have any kindness for me, pray, be his friend. With all my heart, said the fairy: I can make your son the handsomest prince in the world, or the richest, or the most powerful; choose which you please. I ask none of these for my son, answered the good king; but if you will make him the best of princes, I shall be greatly obliged to you: for what would beauty, riches, or all the kingdoms in the universe signify, if he were wicked? you know very well

how he would be miserable ; for virtue alone can make him happy. Very true ; you are in the right, said Candida : but it is not in my power to make Prince Darling good against his will ; he must endeavour to be virtuous himself. All that I can promise you is, to give him good advice, to reprove him when he does wrong, and punish him if he will not amend.

This good king was very well satisfied with this promise ; and in a little time after, he died. Prince Darling was greatly afflicted at the loss of his Father ; for he loved him sincerely, and would have given his whole kingdom to save his life ; but that was impossible.

Two days after the king's death Candida appeared to darling as he lay abed, and said to him, I promised your father to be your friend ; and, to keep my promise, am come to make you this present, [putting at the same time a small gold-ring upon Darling's finger.] Keep this ring, added she, with the greatest care, it is of more value than diamonds ; every time you com-

mit an ill action, it will prick your finger; but if, notwithstanding this notice, you persist, you will lose my friendship, and I shall become your enemy. No sooner had Candida finished these words, than she disappeared, leaving Darling greatly astonished.

For a long while he was so good, that the ring never so much as once pricked him; and his behaviour gave such satisfaction, that to his former name of *Darling*, the people added that of *Hap-py*. But one day he went a-hunting, and having caught nothing, it put him into an ill temper, and he thought he felt the ring press his finger a little; but as it did not prick him, he gave scarce any heed to it. As he was going into his room, his little dog Bibi came jumping and fawning upon him; but Darling bid him begone, and told him he was not in a humour to play with him. The poor little dog, who could not understand what he said, pulled him by the cloaths to make Darling take notice of him; but that put the

24 DIALOGUES BETWEEN YOUNG LADIES

king into such a passion, that he gave him a terrible kick with his foot, and immediately the



ring pricked him just like the point of a pin. He was surprised at this, and went and sat down in a corner of the room quite ashamed. I believe, says he to himself, the fairy banters me ; what great harm have I done in kicking a troublesome animal ? What advantage is there in being master of a great empire, if I may not have

the liberty of beating my own dog? I do not banter you, replied a voice to Darling, you have committed three faults instead of one: First, you put yourself into an ill-humour, because you cannot bear to be contradicted, but think both man and beast were made only to obey you. Then you fell into a passion, which is another great fault; and, lastly, you have been cruel to a poor little beast, only for fawning upon you. I know you are greatly above a dog; but if it were just and reasonable to use those ill who are our inferiors and in our power, I could beat and kill you, since a fairy is greater than a man. The advantage of being master of a great empire, does not consist in being able to do all the mischief you have a mind to, but in having it in your power to do all the good you desire.

Darling acknowledged his fault, and promised amendment, but did not keep his word. He had been brought up by a silly nurse, who spoiled him when he was little: if he wanted any thing, he had nothing to do but cry, fret or stamp

with his foot, and she gave it him immediately ; and that made him obstinate and head-strong. Besides, from morning to night she was continually telling him, that he was to be a king ; and that kings were very happy, because every body was obliged to obey and respect them, and that no one could hinder them from doing what they pleased. When Darling grew up, and began to think, he knew very well that nothing was more odious than pride, haughtiness, and obstinacy, and strove to get the better of himself ; but he had contracted a habit of these faults, and bad habits are not easily conquered. He was not, however, naturally of a bad disposition ; but when he committed a fault, would grieve, and say, I am very unhappy in having pride and anger to strive against every moment : if I had been corrected while a child, I should not now have all this difficulty. His ring frequently pricked him. Sometimes he would stop short, at others he went on : but, what was very remarkable, for a slight fault his ring pricked him only a little ;

but when he was very bad, it fetched blood from his finger. At last, it made him so angry, that, resolving to be easy, he pulled off his ring, and would wear it no longer. He thought himself the happiest man in the world when he had got rid of this troublesome monitor. He gave himself up to all manner of folly that came into his head; and by that means grew so wicked, that nobody could bear him.

It happened one day, while Darling was out a-walking, that he saw a young maid so exceeding beautiful that he resolved to marry her. Her name was Zelia; and she was as virtuous as she was beautiful. Darling imagined Zelia would be very glad to be a great queen; but she told him, with a great deal of freedom, that though she was but a poor shepherdes, and had no fortune, she could not consent to be his wife. What! said Darling, somewhat moved, do you dislike me then? Pardon me, great king answered Zelia; you appear to me as you really are, that is, extremely handsome; but what sa-

28 DIALOGUES BETWEEN YOUNG LADIES

tisfaction would your beauty and riches be to me, or the fine cloaths and grand equipages you would give me, if the ill actions I see you commit eve-



ry day obliged me to hate and despise you. At this Darling fell into a great rage with Zelia, and ordered his attendants to carry her by force to his palace. He was so taken up the whole day with the thoughts of the affront she had put upon him, that he could not think of any thing

else; but as he loved her, he could not think of using her ill.

Among Darling's favourites was his foster-brother, in whom he placed an entire confidence. This man, whose inclinations were as mean and base as his extraction, flattered his master's passions, and gave him very ill advice. Seeing Darling very melancholy, he asked him the reason of his uneasiness. The prince told him, that he could not endure Zelia's disdain; and since he found he could not please her without being virtuous, he was resolved to be so, and amend his conduct.

You are very silly indeed, said this wicked wretch, to lay yourself under any restraint for a poor girl. If I was in your place, I would make her obey. Remember you are a king, and that it would be a shame, for you to submit to the humours of a shepherdess, who might think herself greatly honoured in being admitted among your slaves. Send her to prison, and let her live on bread and water; and if she still persists in her

obstinacy, put her to a cruel death, for an example to others. What a disgrace would it be for you to have it known, that a silly girl dared to resist your will! it would make all your subjects forget that they came into the world to obey and serve you. But, said Darling, would it not be a greater if I put an innocent person to death? for, after all, Zelia is not guilty of any crime. None can be innocent who refuse to comply with your commands, replied the confidant: but even supposing you were to commit a piece of injustice, you had better be accused of that, than let people know that they may sometimes want respect, and contradict you. The courtier took Darling by his weak side. The fear of seeing his authority lessened, made so strong an impression on the king, that it stifled all his good resolutions of amendment, and he determined to go that very evening to the shepherdess's chamber, and use her ill if she persisted in refusing to marry him. Darling's foster-brother, in the meantime, fearing some return of good nature should

make the king alter his mind, got together three other young noblemen as wicked as himself, to sit up and make the king drink hard : they supped together, and took care to ply the king with wine, that he drank till he scarce knew what he did. While they were at table, they spoke so much against Zelia, and made the king so ashamed of his weakness for her, that he got up like a madman, swearing he would make her obey him, or sell her the next day for a slave.

Darling went to Zelia's room, but was greatly surprised at not finding her there : for he had locked her in, and kept the key in his pocket. He was in a terrible passion, and vowed revenge against all he suspected of having been assisting to her escape. His confidants hearing him talk in such a manner, resolved to make use of this occasion to ruin a nobleman who had been Darling's governor.

This gentleman had often taken the liberty to tell the king of his faults, for he loved him as his own son. At first Darling thanked him ; after-

wards he grew angry at being contradicted; and at last he imagined it was only out of contradiction that his governor found fault, while every one else praised him; for which reason he commanded him to retire from court. But notwithstanding this order, he would often say he was a man of worth; and that, though he did not love him any longer, he could not help esteeming him. This put the confidants in continual apprehensions lest the king should send for him to court again; and they were overjoyed at so good an occasion of getting rid of him for ever. They made the king believe that Suliman (that was this worthy nobleman's name) had boasted he would set Zelia at liberty. Three men, corrupted by bribes, said they had heard Suliman say this. The prince, transported with rage, commanded his foster-brother to send some soldiers and bring Suliman before him in chains like a criminal.

After Darling had given these orders, he withdrew to his chamber: but scarce was he entered, but the earth trembled under him; he heard

a violent clap of thunder, and Candida appeared. I promised your father, said she, in a severe tone, to give you good advice, and to punish you if you refused to follow it. But you have despised my counsel, you have preserved only the bare outside of a man; for your crimes have transformed you into a monster, odious both to heaven and earth. It is time for me to keep my word, and to punish you. I condemn you to become like the beasts, whose inclinations you have followed. You have been furious as a lion, greedy as a wolf, brutish and savage as a bull, and like a serpent have stung him who was another father to you. Represent the nature of all these brutes in your new form. No sooner had the fairy pronounced these words, than Darling found the effect of them in his horrid metamorphosis.

He had the head of a lion, the horns of a bull, the feet of a wolf, and the tail of a viper; and was instantly transported into a large forest, near the brink of a clear fountain, where he saw his

34 DIALOGUES BETWEEN YOUNG LADIES

own terrible figure, and heard these words:
 “ View well the miserable condition into which
 “ thy crimes have brought thee ; and know,
 “ that thy soul is still more hideous than thy be-
 “ dy.” Darling knew the voice of Candida,
 and in his fury turned and would have devoured
 her had it been possible ; but he said nothing ;
 and the same voice replied : “ I despise thy fee-
 “ ble malice, and will shortly confound thy pride
 “ by putting thee under the power of thy own
 “ subjects.

Darling hoped, that if he went from the foun-
 tain, the not having his ugliness and deformity
 continually before his eyes would be some alle-
 viation to his misery.

He advanced, therefore, further into the wood ;
 but had scarce taken a few steps, before he fell
 into a pit that was made to catch bears. At the
 same time, some huntsmen who had hid them-
 selves in the trees, came down, took him, and
 having chained him, carried him to the capital
 city of his kingdom. On the way thither, in-

stead of acknowledging his fault and the justness of his punishment, he cursed the fairy in his heart, bit his chains, and gave himself up to all the transports of rage. As they came near the city, he perceived great rejoicings; and the huntsmen having asked the occasion of them, were answered, That Prince Darling, the scourge and torment of his people, had been struck dead in his room by a clap of thunder, (for so it was believed). The gods, added they, were weary of his excessive wickedness, and therefore suffered him to live no longer. Four noblemen, the partners of his crimes, endeavoured to lay hold of this opportunity of sharing the empire amongst themselves; but the people, knowing that the king had been ruined through their bad counsels, tore them in pieces, and have offered the throne to Suliman, whom wicked Darling would have put to death. That worthy lord is just now crowned, and we celebrate this day as that of the nation's deliverance; for he is virtuous, and we shall once more enjoy peace and plenty.

36 DIALOGUES BETWEEN YOUNG LADIES

Darling, at this discourse, foamed with madness; but it was much worse when he came to the great square before his palace: he there saw Suliman seated on a magnificent throne, receiving the acclamations of the people, who wished him a long life, that he might repair the evils done by his predecessor. Suliman made a sign with his hand for silence; and addressing himself to the people, I have, said he, accepted the crown you offered me, but it is only with a design to keep it for Prince Darling.

He is not dead, as you imagine: a fairy has revealed it to me, and perhaps you may one day see him again, virtuous as he was in the first year of his reign. Alas, continued he, shedding tears, he has been seduced by flattery: I know the natural goodness of his heart, it was formed for virtue; and had it not been for the poisonous discourse of those about him, he would have been a parent to you all. Detest his vices, but pity him, and let us altogether beseech the gods to return him to us. For my part, I should es-

teem myself but too happy, could I, even at the expence of my blood, restore him to his throne, with every disposition necessary to fill it worthily. The words of Suliman pierced to the very soul of Darling : he was now convinced how sincere and faithful this man's attachment had been to him, and now for the first time repented of his failings. He had no sooner listened to this good motion, than he felt the rage within him grow calm and subside ; and, reflecting on his past conduct, found he was punished much less than he deserved. He ceased then to beat himself against his iron cage, and became as gentle as a lamb. He was then carried into a large house where monsters and wild beasts were kept, and was chained with the others.

Darling from this moment took a resolution to begin his amendment by being obedient to his keeper. He was a brutish surly fellow ; and when in ill humour, though the monster was very tame and good-natured, would beat him without either rhyme or reason.

One day, while this man was asleep, a tyger

38 DIALOGUES BETWEEN YOUNG LADIES

that had broke his chain rushed on him, and was just ready to devour him. Darling at first felt a kind of joy at the prospect of being delivered from his persecutor; but he condemned it directly, and wished to be at liberty: I would, said he, return good for evil, and save the life of this unhappy person. Immediately the door of his iron cage flew open, and he hastened to the man's assistance, who was then awake, and defending himself against the tyger. Seeing Darling so near him, he gave himself up for lost: but his fear was soon returned to joy; for the generous monster seized on the tyger, strangled him, and afterwards lay down at the feet of his keeper: who, penetrated with gratitude, would have stooped down to make much of him, but he heard a voice that said, "A good action never loses its reward;" and, at the same time, instead of the monster, he saw a pretty little dog at his feet: Darling, delighted with his sudden transformation, wagged his tail, and jumped about his keeper; who took him up in his arms, and

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carried him to the king, to whom he related the wonderful adventure.

The queen desired to have the dog ; and Darling in this new situation would have thought himself very happy, could he have forgot he had once been a man and a king.

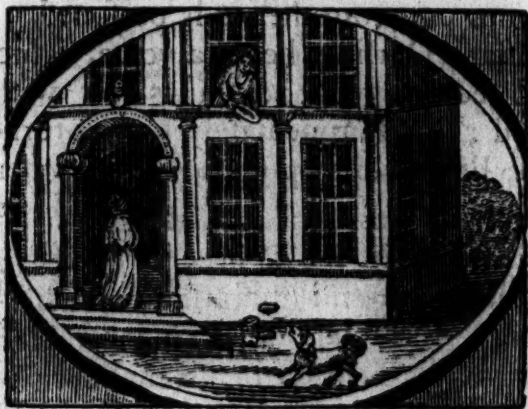
The queen was extremely fond of him ; but fearing lest he would grow bigger, she consulted her physicians, and they told her to let him eat nothing but bread, and of that but a small quantity : so poor Darling was half starved, but he was resolved to bear it with patience.

One day when they had given him his little roll for breakfast, it came into his head to go and eat it in the palace garden, and taking it into his mouth, he ran towards a canal he knew was at a small distance ; but when he came to the place, instead of the canal, he saw a large house, the outside of which sparkled with gold and precious stones. He perceived great numbers, both of men and women, go in richly dressed ; and in the house there was singing, dancing, feasting, and

all manner of diversion: but all that came out were pale, thin, and covered with ulcers, and almost naked; for their clothes hung in rags and tatters: some fell down as they came out, without having strength to go any further: others lay on the ground ready to die with hunger, begging a morsel of bread of those that were going in; but they did not so much as vouchsafe them a look. Darling came near a young woman who endeavoured to pull up a few herbs to eat. The prince, moved with compassion, said to himself, I am hungry, it is true; but if I wait till dinner-time, I should not be starved; and perhaps, were I to give my breakfast to this poor creature, I might save her life: and resolving therefore to follow this good inclination, he dropt his bread into the young woman's hand, who carried it to her mouth with surprising eagerness, and soon appeared perfectly recovered. Darling, overjoyed at having so seasonably relieved her, was going back to the palace, when he heard several loud cries; and turning round, saw Zelia in the hands

of four men, who dragged her along, and forced her into this fine house. Darling now wished for his monster's shape again, that he might succour Zelia; but, poor little dog, he could only bark at and endeavour to follow the ravishers. They kicked him, and would have drove him away; but he was determined not to leave the house till he knew what became of his shepherds: And, reproaching himself with his former behaviour, Alas! said he, I am incensed at these men for carrying her off in this manner; but have I not committed the same crime? and had not the justice of Heaven prevented my attempt, should I not have treated her with the like indignity?

The reflections of Darling were interrupted by a noise over his head: he looked up, when a window opened; and to his great joy he saw Zelia, who threw out a dish of victuals so nicely



drest that the very sight of them created an appetite, and immediately shut the window. Darling, who had not yet broke his fast, thought he would take this opportunity, and was just going to eat, when the young woman, to whom he had given his bread, gave a loud shriek ; and, snatching him up in her arms, poor little animal, said she, do not taste of their victuals ; that house is the palace of voluptuousness, and every thing

that comes out from thence is poisoned. At the same instant Darling heard a voice, which said, 'Thou seest a good action is not without its "reward;" and immediately he was turned into a pretty little white pigeon. He remembered this colour was that of Candida, and began to hope he might be restored to her favour.

The first thing he did was to to seek after Zelia; and, spreading his wings, he flew quite round the house, and seeing a window open, went through every room in it; but in vain, he could not find Zelia: he was greatly afflicted at this disappointment, but resolved not to stop till he found her. He flew several days together, till at last he got into a desert; and seeing a cave, drew near: but how great was his joy! Zelia sat there by the side of a venerable hermit,

44 DIALOGUES BETWEEN YOUNG LADIES



taking her share of a frugal meal with him. Darling, transported, flew on the shoulder of his charming shepherdess, and, billing and cooing, endeavoured to express the pleasure he felt in seeing her. Zelia, charmed with the fondness of the little creature, stroked him gently with her hand; and, though she did not think he understood her, told him she accepted the present he had made to her of himself, and that she would

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love him always. What have you done, Zelia, said the hermit? you have just plighted your faith. Yes, lovely sheperdess, cried Darling, who that moment reasumed his natural shape, on your consenting to be mine depended the end of my metamorphosis. You have promised to love me always: confirm my happiness, or I must beseech the fairy Candida, my patroness, to let me return to the form in which I had the unspeakable satisfaction of being agreeable to to you. You have nothing to fear from her inconstancy, replied Candida, quitting the likeness of the hermit she had been concealed under, and appearing to them such as she really was: Zelia loved you from the first moment she saw you; but your vices obliged her to dissemble the inclination she had conceived for your person. This happy reformation from vice to virtue gives her full liberty to indulge a generous passion.

You will be happy, since your being united, which will be lasting, will rest on virtue as a solid foundation.

46 DIALOGUES BETWEEN YOUNG LADIES

Darling and Zelia threw themselves at the feet of Candida. The prince thought he could never thank her enough for her goodness; and Zelia, delighted to find he detested his errors, confessed her affection, and gave him her hand with the utmost tenderness. Rise, my dear children, said the fairy; I am going to transport you to your palace, and restore Darling to a crown of which he was before unworthy. She had scarce done speaking, when they found themselves in Suliman's chamber; who overjoyed at his dear master's double return, both to virtue and to his kingdom, yielded up the throne to him, and remained the most faithful of his subjects.

Darling reigned many years very happily with Zelia; and, it is said, applied himself so assiduously to his duty, that his ring which he put on again, and constantly wore, never once pricked him so as to fetch blood from his finger.

Lady Mary. Dear Mrs Affable, what a sweetpretty tale this is! If I was in Lady Sensible's

place, I should teaze you all day long for more. Pray will you tell me another the first occasion, if I learn my lesson well.

Mrs Affable. Yes, my dear; but let me know what you like best in this tale.

Lady Mary. Every thing, Mrs Affable, but especially that pretty ring that hindered Darling from being naughty.

Lady Witty. I am sure I ought to have one; I should often have my finger pricked.

Mrs Affable. I am pleased with your sincerity, my dear; but let me tell you, we all have one.

Lady Sensible. I could lay a wager that I guess your meaning; is it not our conscience that pricks us every time we do wrong?

Mrs Affable. You have guessed it, Lady Sensible.

Lady Charlotte. Then it is my ring that tells me often how ugly it is to stamp with one's foot. I do just like Darling when he was little; and my nurse is full as foolish as his was; for she

says, Why do you make the child cry? give her what she wants. I know this, and cry twenty times a-day; but indeed I will be good, for fear I should be turned into a great frightful beast, like Darling.

Lady Mary. What! are people turned into monsters, and have horns, when they are naughty?

Mrs Affable. No, my dear: the body remains as it is without any alteration; but it is the soul that will become ugly, and more horrid and deformed than a monster, if you are not a good child.

Lady Charlotte. I have a great mind to be good, but I cannot help being naughty sometimes. I do a fault before I am aware of it. I don't love to be contradicted; and when they won't let me do what I please, it makes me ill-natured, and then I beat my maid, quarrel with my sisters, and call them names, and don't mind my masters. Pray tell me how I must grow better.

Mrs Affable. O Lady Charlotte, you can

help being naughty if you will ; for we may all be good if we take the right method. I will tell you what you must do : First, You must beg of God, every morning and evening in your prayers, to give you grace that you may grow better ; for we can do nothing without his assistance. But then you must do this from the bottom of your heart, and as earnestly as you ask your mamma for what you have the greatest mind to. In the next place, You must endeavour to atone for your faults, by telling your maid you are very sorry for having struck her, and hope she will excuse it : and when you behave ill to your sisters, ask their pardon, and desire them to tell you whenever you do amiss.

If you really intend to be good, you must write down all the naughty things you say and do every evening ; and I am certain that will make you ashamed of yourself. And you will reflect, that GOD saw you commit all these faults, and, if you do not leave them off, will punish you for them, either in this world, or af-

ter your death. Don't you know all these things, Lady Charlotte?

Lady Charlotte. I have been told so; but I never thought much about it.

Mrs Affable. So indeed I imagined; for if you had, it would have hindered you from being naughty. To keep it in your mind, you must read the Holy Scripture, which is a divine book, dictated by the Holy Ghost; therefore you must study and repeat it with the highest reverence. From this excellent history, you will be informed of the greatness, wisdom, and power of God; you will also learn his infinite goodness, mercy, and tender compassion; and you will see how much you ought to love, and how careful you should be of offending so great and good a Being, since he punishes the wicked with the utmost severity. Remember, my dear children, that this history is the only one which you may not doubt the truth of; it is more certain than that it is now day-light. Farewell, ladies; I hope I shall

still have reason to be satisfied with your minding your lessons.

DIALOGUE IV.

THE SECOND DAY.

Mrs Affable.

I AM glad to see you, ladies: but how comes it that you have not brought Lady Trifle with you?

Lady Witty. She says she does not choose to come, because she does not like to hear stories and tales.

Mrs Affable. You see, ladies, the effects of bad habits: Lady Trifle has been accustomed to play from morning to night, and every thing else

is fatiguing and tiresome: for this reason she will be ignorant as long as she lives: and though she has a very good capacity, will appear very weak in conversation. Pray do not follow her bad example. I am sure Lady Mary is wiser, and has got her lesson.

Lady Mary. I have read it four times over, Mrs Affable, and repeated it to pappā and mamma; shall I say it to you?

Mrs Affable. Yes, my dear.

Lady Mary. A long, long while ago, before there were either heavens or earth, or men or beasts, there was only GOD Almighty, for he was from all eternity. Now, ladies, GOD Almighty can do what he pleases: if he were to command a garden in the middle of this room, there would be a garden directly. Well then, all of a sudden, GOD said, Let there be heaven, and earth, and trees, and birds, and fishes, and flowers, &c. and immediately as he spake, every thing came. He was five days in making all we see about us; and the sixth day he took some

earth, and made a man of it. But, ladies, this man could neither speak nor walk; he was like an image. God, to make him speak and walk, gave him a soul after his own likeness, and called him *Adam*. As Adam would have been weary of living alone, God made him very sleepy; and while he slept, took one of his ribs, and made a woman out of it, as big as mamma. God named the woman he had made out of Adam's rib, *Eve*; and put her with Adam into a delightful garden, where there was all manner of fruit, figs, and plums, and cherries, and currants, and pears, &c.; there was also an apple-tree, which bore very fine apples. God said to Adam and Eve, You may eat of all the fruits in the garden; I give them to you: but I forbid you to touch these apples; if you eat any, you shall die. The devil, who is a sad wicked creature, and had disobeyed God, was jealous of Adam and Eve, and wanted to make them as wicked and as miserable as himself: for that purpose he took the shape of a serpent; and finding Eve

walking alone, he said to her, Why do not you eat some of these apples? they are very beautiful and fine-tasted. Eve, instead of stopping her ears, or running away, stood talking with the devil, and made answer, God has forbid us to eat any of these apples, and told us we should die if we touched them. You must not believe him, said the devil; he forbid you, because he knows, if you eat of them, you will be as great and powerful and know as much as himself. Eve who wanted to know as much as God, was foolish enough to believe the devil, and took an apple herself, and gave another to Adam. When they



had ate of the forbidden fruit, they saw very well that they had done wrong; and being quite ashamed, went and hid themselves under the trees, as if it were possible to be hid from God Almighty. Some time after God had called Adam, and said to him, Why have you been disobedient? Adam, instead of acknowledging his fault, and asking pardon, endeavoured to excuse himself, and replied, Lord, the woman you gave me, bid me

eat of the fruit. Lord, (said Eve,) the serpent advised me to eat of it. Since you are all guilty, you shall every one be punished, said GOD Almighty. The serpent shall be cursed, and the woman shall crush his head; Eve shall be obliged to obey her husband; Adam shall get his bread by his labour, and shall die, as well as his wife. After this GOD drove Adam and Eve out of his fine garden, which was called *Paradise*; and placed an angel at the gate with a flaming sword, to prevent their getting in again.

Mrs Affable. My dear Lady Mary, I am quite pleased with you; you have repeated your story like a lady. But pray tell me, is it to know a great deal that you learn these stories?

Lady Mary. Indeed I don't know *Mrs Affable*.

Mrs Affable. Come, Lady Sensible, tell these ladies what must be done in learning or hearing a story.

Lady Sensible. You have told me that we should examine the faults and virtues of those

whom we hear an account of, in order to avoid their faults, and to imitate their virtues.

Mrs Affable. Rightly answered, my dear. Well, Miss Molly, what advantage do you make of this story?

Miss Molly. When I am in a fault, I will not excuse myself, but own it, and ask pardon.

Mrs Affable. A very good answer. And you, Lady Charlotte?

Lady Charlotte. When I have a mind to be greedy or disobedient, I will think that the serpent stands before me, and bids me do these things? and I will say to him, Get away, wicked creature, I had rather obey GOD Almighty than you.

Mrs Affable. You are a good child to think so. And what does Lady Witty think?

Lady Witty. I think that Eve was very proud to want to be as wise as GOD, and that she was very greedy too. If she had had nothing else to eat, I could have forgiven her; but when she has so many other things, methinks, if I had

58 DIALOGUES BETWEEN YOUNG LADIES

been in her place, I would not have troubled my head about these nasty apples.

Mrs Affable. If our conversation had not lasted so long already, I would tell you a pretty story you put me in mind of; but it shall be for another opportunity.

Lady Witty. Oh, Mrs Affable, I am sure these ladies will not be tired of hearing you; do, pray, tell us this story.

Mrs Affable. What do you say, ladies?

All together. Pray let us hear it.

Mrs Affable. One day a king lost his way as he was hunting. As he endeavoured to get into the right road, he heard some persons talking; and going near the place, he saw a man and wo-



man cutting wood. The woman, like Lady Witty, said, it must be owned that our mother Eve was very greedy to eat the apple : if she had obeyed God, we should have no occasion to work hard every day as we do now. The man answered her, If Eve was a glutton, Adam was a fool to do what she bid him ; if I had been in his place, and you had desired me to eat any of these apples, I would have hit you a good box

68 DIALOGUES BETWEEN YOUNG LADIES

on the ear, and not so much as have given you the hearing. The king went to them, and said, Good people, you work very hard. Yes, Sir, answered they, (for they did not know it was the king), we work like horses from morning to night, and yet we can scarcely make shift to live. Come along with me, said the king, I will maintain you without working. Just then the king's attendants, who had been looking for him, came up; and the poor people were greatly surprised, and no less rejoiced, at this unexpected adventure. When they were in the palace, the king gave them fine cloaths, a coach and servants in livery, and every day they had a dozen dishes at their dinner; at the end of the month they had four and twenty; but in the middle of the table was placed a large dith with a cover. Immediately the woman, who was very curious, went to open it; but one of the king's officers that was by, told them, that his majesty forbade them to meddle with it, or to look into it. When the servants withdrew, the husband took notice that

his wife looked dull and did not eat ; and asked her what was the matter ? She told him, she would not give a pin for all the nice victuals there, but that she longed for what was in the covered dish. You are a fool, said the man ; have you not been told the king will not have us touch it ? The king is very unreasonable, said the woman ; if he would not have us see what is in the dish, he should not have ordered it to be set upon the table ; and at the same time fell a-crying, and said, she would kill herself if her husband did not open the dish. The good man was moved when he saw her cry ; and as he loved her dearly, he told her, he would do any thing to please her, if she would not make herself uneasy ; and opening the dish, immediately out jumped a little mouse, and got away. They both ran after it ; but before they could catch it, the king entered the room, and asked where the mouse was ? An't please your majesty, said the man, my wife teased me so long to see what was in the dish, that I could not help opening it, and

the mouse has got away. Oh, oh! replied the king, you said some time ago, that if you had been Adam, you would have given Eve a box on the ear to cure her of being curious and greedy: you should have remembered your promises.

And you, silly woman, you had every thing you could wish, and yet all was not enough, but, like Eve, you must needs eat of the forbidden fruit. Go, unhappy wretches, return both of you to your labour in the forest, and never blame Adam and Eve again for the hardships you endure, since you have committed the very same fault for which you condemned them,

Lady Witty. I am sure you made this story on purpose for me, Mrs Affable.

Mrs Affable. No, indeed, my dear; I have read it somewhere or other; though, to speak truth, it suits you wonderfully. But, ladies, let us go and drink tea, and afterwards Miss Molly shall tell us her story.

Miss Molly. Adam and Eve had two sons after they came out of Paradise. The eldest they

named *Cain*, and the youngest *Abel*. *Cain*, as he grew up, was a gardener, and *Abel* was a shepherd; that is, he took care of the little lambs and sheep. Adam used to offer part of every thing he had to God, as the first fruits, the first flowers, the first and choicest cattle: not that God stood in need of any of these things, but Adam presented them as an acknowledgement of his dependence upon God for every blessing he enjoyed. *Cain* and *Abel* followed their father's example: but *Cain* grudged what he offered; he did not present it with a good-will. If there was a nice pear or apple in his garden, he kept it for himself, and only gave those he did not care for to God. *Abel* on the contrary, chose out the finest and fattest sheep, and sacrificed them to the LORD; and God loved him better than his brother. *Cain* upon this grew jealous and was very uneasy. One day, God said to him, *Cain* why are you sorrowful? do not you know, that if you do well, you shall be rewarded; but if ill, punished? As much as to say, none but the wick-

64 DIALOGUES BETWEEN YOUNG LADIES

ed have reason to grieve ; therefore, instead of fretting and vexing yourself, become good, and that will soon make you easy and contented.

Cain did not mind the advice GOD had the goodness to give him, but asked Abel if he would walk out with him ; who, being good himself, had no manner of suspicion of his brother, and consented. They went together a great way, and then wicked Cain killed his poor brother



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Abel. He took him so far from home, that Adam and Eve might know nothing of the matter; but GOD, who is every where, saw him commit the murder. He had a mind to try whether Cain would tell a lie, and said to him, "Cain, where is your brother Abel? Cain answered, I do not know; Am I my brother's keeper?" You are cursed, said God, for you have killed your brother: go and wander up and down the world like a vagabond; you shall never have a moment's quiet; your conscience shall torment you night and day: and to prolong your punishment, I will not let the other children of Adam kill you. Immediately Cain fled with his wife from that country, and went to another, and had a great many children.

Mrs Affable. It is impossible to tell a story better than you have done your's. But, Lady Charlotte, does this story make you think of nothing?

Lady Charlotte. O yes, Mrs Affable; but I am ashamed to tell it, it is so very naughty.

Mrs Affable. Come, my dear, a young lady who is willing to own her faults, cannot but be ready to leave them off.

Lady Charlotte. Well then, I will tell you, I am as jealous as Cain of my eldest sister, Pappa and mamma love her better than me ; and that puts me into such a passion, that sometimes I could kill her, if I durst.

Mrs Affable. But, my dear, is it not your own fault that they love your sister more than you ? Tell me now, if you were a mamma, and had two daughters, the one obedient, of a sweet temper and obliging behaviour, and that minded her masters ; the other ill-natured, headstrong, disobedient to her masters, and insolent to every body ; which should you love best ?

Lady Charlotte. I should love the first best.

Mrs Affable. Then you must not blame your pappa and mamma for loving your sister better than you. Be but as good as she is, and I am sure they will love you dearly.

Lady Charlotte. I will, Mrs Affable ; and I

promise you to write down all I say and do amiss.

Mrs Affable. And I promise you, if you do that, you will certainly grow better; and that you will be as amiable, and as happy, as your eldest sister; for I am persuaded that you are very unhappy when you are naughty.

Lady Charlotte. It is very true, so I am. The other day I told my governess that I wished I were dead.

Mrs Affable. My dear, you make me tremble: what a sad wicked wish was that! What would have become of you, if you had died before you had asked God Almighty pardon? he is very good to give you time to repent and amend. Pray thank him this very night for so great a mercy, and tell him you will love him with all your heart for the future. Good night, my dear children: I am very well pleased with your attention; and next time, to make you amends, you shall have a pretty tale.

DIALOGUE V.

THE THIRD DAY.



Mrs Affable.

You are come very soon to-day, ladies : we have but just this moment got up from table.

Lady Witty. Mrs Affable, I dined with these ladies ; and we were so impatient to see you, that we were not above ten minutes at dinner.

Mrs Affable. Then I must chide you, dear children : nothing is worse for your health than to eat too quick. To punish you, there shall be no stories before tea ; but we will go and walk in the garden.

Lady Mary. I like walking in the garden very well, but I like stories still better. Pray, Mrs Affable, forgive us this time; upon my conscience I did not know it was a fault to eat so quick.

Mrs Affable. And it is another fault to swear upon your conscience; you must not say so again. I will not let you repeat your lessons now, ladies, lest it should hurt you to think of them so soon after dinner.

Lady Charlotte. Well, Mrs Affable, we will say nothing, but you will tell us something. You promised us a pretty tale: will it hurt us to hear it.

Mrs Affable. I see I must do as you would have me: when you are good, children, I have not the heart to deny you any thing. Come, we will go and sit in the garden, and I will tell you the tale I promised you last time.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST. A Tale.

THERE was once a very rich merchant; who had six children, three sons and three daughters. Being a man of sense, he spared no cost for their education, but gave them all kinds of masters. His daughters were extremely handsome; especially the youngest. When she was little, every body admired her, and called her *the little Beauty*; so that as she grew up, she still went by the name of *Beauty*, which made her sisters very jealous. The youngest, as she was handsomer, was also better than her sisters. The two eldest had a great deal of pride, because they were rich. They gave themselves ridiculous airs, and would not visit other merchants daughters, nor keep company with any but persons of quality. They went out every day upon parties of pleasure,

balls, plays, concerts, &c. and laughed at their youngest sister, because she spent the greatest part of her time in reading good books. As it was known that they were great fortunes, several eminent merchants made their addresses to them! but the two eldest said, they would never marry unless they could meet with a duke, or an earl at least. Beauty very civilly thanked them that courted her; and told them she was too young yet to marry, but choose to stay with her father a few years longer.

All at once the merchant lost his whole fortune, excepting a small country-house at a great distance from town; and told his children, with tears in his eyes, they must go there and work for their living. The two eldest answered that they would not leave the town, for they had several lovers, who they were sure would be glad to have them though they had no fortune: but the good ladies were mistaken; for their lovers slighted and forsook them in their poverty. As they were not beloved on account of their pride,

every body said, They do not deserve to be pitied ; we are very glad to see their pride humbled ; let them go and give themselves quality-airs in milking the cows and minding the dairy. But, added they, we are extremely concerned for Beauty, she was such a charming sweet-tempered creature, spoke so kindly to poor people, and was of such an affable obliging behaviour. Nay, several gentlemen would have married her, though they knew she had not a penny ; but she told them, she could not think of leaving her poor father in his misfortunes, but was determined to go along with him into the country, to comfort and attend him. Poor Beauty at first was sadly grieved at the loss of her fortune : But, said she to herself, were I to cry ever so much, that would not make things better ; I must try to make myself happy without a for-



ture. When they came to their country-house, the merchant and his three sons applied themselves to husbandry and tillage; and Beauty rose at four in the morning, and made haste to have the house clean, and dinner ready for the family. In the beginning she found it very difficult, for she had not been used to work as a servant; but in less than two months she grew stronger and healthier than ever. After she had done her

74 DIALOGUES BETWEEN YOUNG LADIES

work, she read, played on the harpsichord, or else sung whilst she spun. On the contrary, her two sisters did not know how to spend their time; they got up at ten, and did nothing but saunter about the whole day, lamenting the loss of their fine cloaths and acquaintance. Do but see our youngest sister, said they one to the other, what a poor, stupid, mean-spirited creature she is, to be contented with such an unhappy dismal situation. The good merchant was of a quite different opinion. He knew very well that Beauty outshone her sisters, in her person as well as mind; and admired her humility and industry, but above all her humility and patience; for her sisters not only left her all the work of the house to do, but insulted her every moment.

The family had lived about a year in this retirement, when the merchant received a letter, with an account that a vessel, on board of which he had effects, was safely arrived. This news had like to have turned the heads of the two eldest daughters, who immediately flattered them-

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selves with the hopes of returning to town, for they were quite weary of a country life; and when they saw their father ready to set out, they begged of him to buy them new gowns, head-dresses,



ribbons, and all manner of trifles; but Beauty asked for nothing; for she thought to herself, that all the money her father was going to receive would scarce be sufficient to purchase eve-

ry thing her sisters wanted. What will you have, Beauty? said her father. Since you have, the goodness to think of me, answered she, be so kind as to bring me a rose; for as none grows hereabouts, they are a kind of rarity. Not that Beauty cared for a rose, but she asked for something, lest he should seem by her example to condemn her sisters conduct, who would have said she did it only to look particular. The good man went on his journey: but when he came there, they went to law with him about the merchandise; and after a great deal of trouble and pains to no purpose, he came back as poor as before.

He was within thirty miles of his own house, thinking on the pleasure he should have in seeing his children again, when going through a large forest he lost himself. It rained and snowed terribly; besides, the wind was so high that it threw him twice off his horse; and night coming on, he began to apprehend being either starved to death with cold and hunger, or else devour-

ed by the wolves, whom he heard howling all round him : when, on a sudden, looking through a long walk of trees, he saw a light at some distance ; and going on a little farther, perceived it came from a place illuminated from top to bottom. The merchant returned GOD thanks for this happy discovery, and hastened to the place, but was greatly surprised at not meeting with any one in the out-courts. His horse followed him, and seeing a large stable open, went in, and finding both hay and oats, the poor beast, who was almost famished, fell to eating very heartily ; the merchant tied him up to the manger, and walked towards the house, where he saw no one ; but entering into a large hall, he found a good fire, and a table plentifully set out, with but one cover laid. As he was wet quite through with the rain and snow, he drew near the fire to dry himself. I hope, said he, the master of the house, or his servants, will excuse the liberty I take ; I suppose it will not be long before some of them appear.

He waited a considerable time, till it struck eleven, and still nobody came: at last he was so hungry that he could stay no longer, but took a chicken, and ate it in two mouthfuls, trembling all the while. After this he drank a few glasses of wine; and growing more courageous, he went out of the hall, and crossed through several grand apartments with magnificent furniture, till he came into a chamber which had an exceeding good bed in it; and as he was very much fatigued, and it was past midnight, he concluded it wai best to shut the door and go to bed.

It was ten the next morning before the merchant awaked; and as he was going to rise, he was astonished to see a good suit of cloaths in the room, in place of his own, which were quite spoiled. Certainly, said he, this palace belongs to some kind fairy, who has seen and pitied my distress. He looked through a window; but instead of snow, saw the most delightful arbours, interwoven with the beautifullest flowers that ever were beheld, He then returned to the great

hall where he had supped the night before, and found some chocolate ready made on a little table. Thank you, good Madam Fairy, said he aloud, for being so careful as to provide me a breakfast; I am extremely obliged to you for all your favours.

The good man drank his chocolate, and then went to look for his horse; but passing through an arbour of roses, he remembered Beauty's request to him, and gathered a branch on which were several. Immediately he heard a great noise, and saw such a frightful beast coming towards him that he was ready to faint away. You are very ungrateful, said the beast to him in a terrible voice; I have saved your life by receiving you into my castle, and, in return, you steal my roses, which I value beyond any thing in the universe: but you shall die for it; I give you but a quarter of an hour to prepare yourself and say your prayers. The merchant fell on his knees, and lifted up both his hands; My lord, said he, I beseech you to forgive me; indeed I

had no intention to offend in gathering a rose for one of my daughters; who desired me to bring her one. My name is not *My Lord*, replied the monster, but *Beast*; I don't love compliments, not I; I like people should speak as they think; and so do not imagine I am to be moved by any of your flattering speeches: but you say you have got daughters; I will forgive you, on condition that one of them come willingly, and suffer for you. Let me have no words, but go about your business; and swear that if your daughter refuse to die in your stead, you will return within three months. The merchant had no mind to sacrifice his daughters to the ugly monster; but he thought in obtaining this respite, he should have the satisfaction of seeing them once more: so he promised, upon oath, he would return; and the Beast told him he might set out when he pleased; But, added he, you shall not depart empty-handed: go back to the room where you lay, and you will see a great empty chest; fill it with whatever you like best, and I will send it to your

home; and at the same time Beast withdrew. Well, said the good man to himself, if I must die, I shall have the comfort at least of leaving something to my poor children.

He returned to the bed-chamber, and finding a great quantity of broad pieces of gold, he filled the great chest the Beast had mentioned, locked it, and afterwards took his horse out of the stable, leaving the palace with as much grief as he had entered it with joy. The horse, of his own accord, took one of the roads of the forest, and in a few hours the good man was at home. His children came round him; but instead of receiving their embraces with pleasure, he looked on them, and holding up the branch he had in his hand, he burst into tears. Here



Beauty, said he, take these roses ; but little do you think how dear they are like to cost your unhappy father ; and then related his fatal adventure. Immediately the two eldest sent up lamentable out-cries, and said all manner of ill natured things to Beauty, who did not cry at all. Do but see the pride of that little wretch, said they : she would not ask for fine cloaths, as we did ; no truly ; but Miss wanted to distinguish herself ;

so now she will be the death of our poor father, and yet she does not so much as shed a tear. Why should I? answered Beauty, it would be very needless; for my father shall not suffer on my account; since the monster will accept of one of his daughters, I will deliver myself up to all his fury, and I am very happy in thinking that my death will save my father's life, and be a proof of my tender love for him. No, sister, said her three brothers, that shall not be; we will go find the monster, and either kill him, or perish in the attempt. Do not imagine any such a thing, my sons, said the merchant; Beast's power is so great, that I have no hopes of your overcoming him. I am charmed with Beauty's kind and generous offer, but I cannot yield to it: I am old and have not long to live; so can only lose a few years, which I regret for your sakes alone, my dear children. Indeed, father, said Beauty, you shall not go to the palace without me; you cannot hinder me from following you. It was to no purpose all they

84 DIALOGUES BETWEEN YOUNG LADIES

could say, Beauty still insisted on setting out for the fine palace, and her sisters were delighted at it, for her virtue and amiable qualities made them envious and jealous.

The merchant was so afflicted at the thoughts of losing his daughter, that he had quite forgot the chest of full of gold; but at night, when he retired to rest, no sooner had he shut his chamber-door, than to his great astonishment he found it by his bed-side. He was determined, however, not to tell his children that he was grown rich, because they would have wanted to return to town, and he was resolved not to leave the country; but he trusted Beauty with the secret, who informed him, that two gentlemen came in his absence, and courted her sisters: she begged her father to consent to their marriage, and give them fortunes: for she was so good, that she loved them, and forgave heartily all their ill usage. These wicked creatures rubbed their eyes with an onion to force some tears when they parted with their sister, but her brothers were

really concerned. Beauty was the only one who did not shed tears at parting, because she would not increase their uneasiness.

The horse took the direct road to the palace, and towards evening they perceived it illuminated as at first : the horse went of itself into the stable, and the good man and his daughter came into the great hall, where they found a table splendidly served up, and two covers. The merchant had no heart to eat : but Beauty, endeavouring to appear chearful, sat down to table, and helped him. Afterwards, thought she to herself, Beast surely has a mind to fatten me before he eats me, since he provides such plentiful entertainment. When they had supped, they heard a great noise ; and the merchant, all in tears, bid his poor child farewell, for he thought Beast was coming. Beauty was sadly terrified at his horrid form, but she took courage as well as she could ; and the monster having asked her if she came willingly, Ye—e—s, said she, trembling. You are very good, and I am greatly o-

bliged to you : honest man, go your ways to-morrow morning ; but never think of coming here again. Farewell, Beauty ; Farewell, Beast, answered she ; and immediately the monster withdrew. Oh, daughter ! said the merchant, embracing Beauty, I am almost frightened to death ; believe me, you had better go back, and let me stay here. No, father, said Beauty, in a resolute tone ; you shall set out to-morrow morning, and leave me to the care and protection of Providence. They went to bed, and thought they should not close their eyes all night ; but scarce were they laid down, than they fell fast asleep, and Beauty dreamed, a fine lady came and said to her, I am content, Beauty, with your good-will ; this good action of your's, in giving up your own life to save your father's, shall not go unrewarded. Beauty waked, and told her father her dream ; and though it helped to comfort him a little, yet he could not help crying bitterly when he took leave of his dear child.

As soon as he was gone, Beauty sat down in

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the great hall, and fell a crying likewise ; but as she was mistress of a great deal of resolution, she recommended herself to God, and resolved not to be uneasy the little time she had to live ; for she firmly believed Beast would eat her up that night.

However, she thought she might as well walk about till then, and view this fine castle ; which she could not help admiring : it was a delightful pleasant place ; and she was extremely surprised at seeing a door, over which was wrote, BEAUTY'S APARTMENT. She opened it hasty-



ly, and was quite dazled with the magnificence that reigned throughout ; but what chiefly took up her attention was a large library, a harpsichord, and several music-books. Well, said she to herself, I see they will not let my time hang heavy upon my hands for want of amusement. Then she reflected, " Were I but to stay here a day, therewould not have been all these preparations." This consideration inspired her with

fresh courage; and opening the library, she took a book, and read these words in letters of Gold:

- “ Welcome, Beauty, banish fear,
 “ You are queen and mistress here :
 “ Speak your wishes, speak your will,
 “ Swift obedience meets them still”.

Alas! said she, with a sigh, there is nothing I desire so much as to see my poor father, and know what he is doing. She had no sooner said this, than casting her eyes on a great looking glass, to her great amazement she saw her own home, where her father arrived with a very dejected countenance: her sisters went to meet him; and, notwithstanding their endeavours to appear sorrowful, their joy, felt for having got rid of their sister, was visibly in every feature. A moment after every thing disappeared, as did

likewise Beauty's apprehensions at this proof of Beast's complaisance.

At noon she found dinner ready ; and while at table, was entertained with an excellent concert of musick, though without seeing any body : but at night as she was going to sit down to supper, she heard the noise Beast made, and could not help being sadly terrified. Beauty, said the monster, will you give me leave to see you sup ? That is as you please, answered Beauty trembling. No, replied the Beast, you are alone mistress here : you need only bid me begone, if my presence be troublesome, and I will immediately withdraw : but tell me, do not you think me very ugly ? That is true, said Beauty, for I cannot tell a lie : but I believe you are very good natured. So I am, said the monster : but then, besides my ugliness, I have no sense ; I know very well that I am a poor, silly, stupid creature. 'Tis no sign of folly to think so, replied Beauty ; for never did fool know this, or had so humble

a conceit of his own understanding. Eat then, Beauty, said the monster, and endeavour to amuse yourself in your palace; for every thing here is your's, and I should be very uneasy if you were not happy. You are very obliging, answered Beauty; I own I am pleased with your kindness, and when I consider that, your deformity scarce appears. Yes, yes, said the Beast, my heart is good, but still I am a monster. Among mankind, says Beauty, there are many that deserve that name more than you; and I prefer you, just as you are, to those who, under a human form, hide a treacherous, corrupt, and ungrateful heart. If I had sense enough, replied the Beast, I would make a fine compliment to thank you; but I am so dull, that I can only say I am greatly obliged to you. Beauty ate a hearty supper; and had almost conquered her dread of the monster; but she had like to have fainted away, when he said to her, Beauty, will you be my wife? She was some time before

she durst answer; for she was afraid of making him angry if she refused. At last, however, she said, trembling, No, Beast. Immediately the poor monster went to sigh, and hissed so frightfully that the whole place echoed. But Beauty soon recovered her fright; for Beast having said, in a mournful voice, "Then farewell, Beauty," left the room; and only turned back now and then to look at her as he went out.

When Beauty was alone, she felt a great deal of compassion for poor Beast. Alas! said she, it is a thousand pities any thing so good natured should be so ugly.

Beauty spent three months very contentedly in the palace; every evening Beast paid her a visit, and talked to her during supper very rationally with plain good common sense, but never with what the world calls wit; and Beauty daily discovered some valuable qualifications in the monster; and the seeing him often had so accustomed her to his deformity, that far from dreading the

time of his visit, she would often look on her watch to see when it would be nine ; for the Beast never missed coming at that hour. There was but one thing that gave Beauty any concern, which was, that every night before she went to bed, the monster always asked her if she would be his wife. One day she said to him, Beast, you make me very uneasy ; I wish I could consent to marry you, but I am too sincere to make you believe that will ever happen ; I shall always esteem you as a friend ; endeavour to be satisfied with this. I must, said the Beast ; for, alas ! I know too well my own misfortune ; but then I love you with the tenderest affection : however I ought to think myself happy that you will stay here ; promise me never to leave me. Beauty blushed at these words ; she had seen in her glass that her father had pined himself sick for the loss of her, and she longed to see him again. I could, answered she, indeed promise never to leave you entirely ; but I have so great a desire

to see my father, that I shall fret to death if you refuse me that satisfaction. I had rather die myself, said the monster, than give you the least uneasiness: I will send you to your father; you shall remain with him, and poor Beast will die with grief. No, said Beauty, weeping; I love you too well to be the cause of your death: I give you my promise to return in a week. You have shewn me, that my sisters are married, and my brothers gone to the army; only let me stay a week with my father, as he is alone. You shall be there to-morrow morning, said the Beast; but remember your promise: you need only lay your ring on a table before you go to bed, when you have a mind to come back: farewell, Beauty. Beast sighed, as usual, bidding her good night; and Beauty went to bed very sad at seeing him so afflicted. When she waked the next morning she found herself at her father's; and having rung a little bell that was by her bed-side, she saw the maid come, who, the

moment she saw her, gave a loud shriek; at which the good man ran up stairs, and thought he should have died with joy to see his dear daughter again. He held her fast locked in his arms above a quarter of an hour. As soon as the first transports were over, Beauty began to think of rising, and was afraid she had no cloaths to put on: but the maid told her, that she had just found, in the next room, a large trunk full of gowns, covered with gold and diamonds. Beauty thanked good Beast for his kind care; and taking one of the plainest of them, she intended to make a present of the others to her sisters. She scarce had said so, when the trunk disappeared. Her father told her, that Beast insisted on her keeping them herself, and immediately both gowns and trunk came back again.

Beauty dressed herself; and in the mean time they sent to her sisters, who hastened thither with their husbands. They were both of them very unhappy. The eldest had married a gentleman,

extremely handsome indeed, but so fond of his own person, that he was full of nothing but his own dear self, and neglected his wife. The second had married a man of wit; but he only made use of it to plague and torment every body, and his wife most of all. Beauty's sisters sickened with envy, when they saw her dressed like a princess, and more beautiful than ever; nor could all her obliging affectionate behaviour stifle their jealousy, which was ready to burst when she told them how happy she was. They went down to the garden to vent it in tears; and said one to the other, In what is this little creature better than us, that she should be so much happier? Sister, said the eldest, a thought just strikes my mind; let us endeavour to detain her above a week, and perhaps the silly monster will be so enraged at her for breaking her word, that he will devour her. Right, sister, answered the other; therefore we must shew her as much kindness as possible. After they had taken this reso-

lution, they went and behaved so affectionately to their sister, that poor Beauty wept for joy. When the week was expired, they cried and tore their hair; and seemed so sorry to part with her, that she promised to stay a week longer.

In the mean time, Beauty could not help reflecting on herself, for the uneasiness she was likely to cause poor Beast, whom she sincerely loved, and really longed to see again. The tenth night she spent at her father's, she dreamed she was in the palace-garden, and that she saw Beast extended on the grass-plat, who seemed just expiring, and, in a dying voice, reproached her with her ingratitude. Beauty started out of her sleep; and bursting into tears, Am not I very wicked, said she, to act so unkindly to Beast, that has studied so much to please me in every thing? Is it his fault if he is soughly, and has so little sense? He is kind and good, and that is sufficient. Why did I refuse to marry him? I should be happier with the monster than my sis-

ters are with their husbands: it is neither wit, nor a fine person, in a husband, that makes a woman happy: but virtue, sweetness of temper, and complaisance; and Beast has all these valuable qualifications. It is true, I do not feel the tenderness of affection for him; but I find I have the highest gratitude, esteem, and friendship; and I will not make him miserable: were I to be so ungrateful, I should never forgive myself. Beauty having said this, rose, put her ring on the table, and then lay down again; scarce was she in bed before she fell asleep, and when she awakened the next morning, she was overjoyed to find herself in the Beast's palace. She put on one of her richest suits to please him, and waited for evening with the utmost impatience: at last the wished-for hour came, the clock struck nine, yet no Beast appeared. Beauty then feared she had been the cause of his death; she ran crying and wringing her hands all about the palace, like one in despair. After having sought for him eve-

ry where, she recollected her dream, and flew to the canal in the garden, where she dreamed she saw him. There she found poor Beast stretched out, quite senseless, and, as she imagined, dead. She threw herself upon him without any dread; and finding his heart beat still, she fetched some water from the canal, and poured it on his head. Beast opened his eyes, and said to Beauty, You forgot your promise, and I was so afflicted for having lost you, that I resolved to starve myself; but since I have the happiness of seeing you once more, I die satisfied. "No, dear Beast, (said Beauty,) you must not die; live to be my husband; from this moment I give you my hand, and I swear to be none but your's. Alas! I thought I had only a friendship for you; but the grief I now feel convinces me that I cannot live without you." Beauty scarce had pronounced these words, when she saw the palace sparkle with light; and fireworks, instruments of music, every thing seemed to give

100 DIALOGUES BETWEEN YOUNG LADIES

notice of some great event ; but nothing could fix her attention ; she turned to her dear Beast, for whom she trembled with fear. But how



great was her surprise ! Beast was disappeared, and she saw at her feet one of the loveliest princes that eye ever beheld ; who returned her thanks for having put an end to the charm, under which

he had so long resembled a beast. Though this prince was worthy of all her attention, she could not forbear asking where Beast was. You see him at your feet, said the prince : a wicked fairy had condemned me to remain under that shape, till a beautiful virgin should consent to marry me ; the fairy likewise enjoined me to conceal my understanding ; there was only you in the world generous enough to be won by the goodness of my temper : and in offering you my crown, I cannot discharge the obligations I have to you. Beauty, agreeably surpris'd, gave the charming prince her hand to rise ; they went together into the castle, and Beauty was overjoyed to find, in the great hall, her father and his whole family, whom the beautiful lady, that appeared to her in a dream, had convey'd thither.

Beauty, said this lady, come and receive the reward of your judicious choice ; you have preferred virtue before either wit or beauty, and deserve to find a person in whom all these qualifi-

cations are united : you are going to be a great queen ; I hope the throne will not lessen your virtue, or make you forget yourself. As to you, ladies, said the fairy to Beauty's two sisters, I know your hearts, and all the malice they contain : become two statues ; but, under this transformation, still retain your reason. You shall stand before your sister's palace gate, and be it your punishment to behold her happiness : and it will not be in your power to return to your former state, till you own your faults ; But I am very much afraid that you will always remain statues. Pride, anger, gluttony, and idleness, are sometimes conquered ; but the conversion of a malicious and envious mind is a kind of miracle. Immediately the fairy gave a stroke with her wand, and in a moment all that were in the hall were transported into the prince's dominions ; his subjects received him with joy ; he married Beauty, and lived with her many years ; and their happiness, as it was founded on virtue, was complete.

FINIS.

